GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1338
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2003
USE OF HINDI IN EMBASSIES
RAM SHAKAL

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Embassies neither use Hindi in their official work nor they have any facility for doing work in Hindi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Indian Embassies do not communicate in Hindi with the people of Indian Origin and do not extend any assistance in regard to Official Language Committee publications;

(d) if so, the facts thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure the use of Hindi in embassies?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a) No. Indian Embassies abroad do use Hindi in their official work as required and they also are provided with required facilities in this regard.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Indian Embassies do communicate in Hindi with people of Indian Origin and do extend all assistance on Hindi related requirements including Official Language Committee publications.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Government, through the Ministry of External Affairs, has a comprehensive scheme for propagation of Hindi abroad including use of Hindi in Embassies. In certain Embassies, Hindi Officers and Hindi secretarial staff have also been provided Annual Programmes issued by Official Language Department are sent to all Missions for compliance. Hindi computer software has been supplied to 97 Missions and it is being supplied to the remaining Missions. Under instructions from Headquarters, Hindi is given due status in our Missions and all nameplates, signboards, letterheads, stationery are also printed in Hindi. Hindi books are regularly purchased and supplied to our Embassies for their libraries.